

# Descriptive Words to Use in a Formal Analysis of Art

## ELEMENTS OF ART

### Line

blurred  
broken  
controlled  
curved  
diagonal  
freehand  
fuzzy  
jerky  
hesitant  
horizontal  
interrupted  
meandering  
ruled  
short  
straight  
thick  
thin  
vertical  
wide

### Texture

actual  
bumpy  
corrugated  
coarse  
flat  
furry  
gooey  
leathery  
prickly  
rough  
sandy  
shiny  
simulated  
smooth  
soft  
sticky  
tacky  
velvety  
wet

### Value

dark  
light  
medium  
high contrast (black and white, few grays)  
low contrast (many different grays, no pure white or black)

### Space

ambiguous  
axonometric  
deep  
flat  
illusory  
negative/positive  
open  
perspective  
shallow

### Shape/Form

amorphous  
biomorphic  
closed  
distorted  
flat  
free-form  
full of spaces  
geometric  
heavy  
light  
linear  
massive  
nebulous  
open  
organic

### Colors

(hue, shades and tints)  
brash  
bright  
calm  
clear  
cool  
dull  
exciting  
garish  
grayed  
multicolored  
muted  
pale  
polychromed  
primary  
saccharine  
secondary  
subdued  
sweet  
warm